

INFORMATION LETTER

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BROWN TO REVOKE VETO POWERS OF ATTORNEYS

Authority For Final Decisions To Rest
With OPA Administrators,
He Announces

The Associated Press, under date of March 17, published the following account of changes in Office of Price Administration policies:

Price Administrator Prentiss M. Brown, acting to speed up and simplify OPA procedure, has removed all veto powers of the agency's lawyers.

In a special memorandum to his staff, Brown said that the administrative heads of OPA—men in charge of rationing, rent, price control, etc.—“are hereby authorized to make final decisions on those program matters which are within their respective jurisdictions.”

Formerly, nearly the whole OPA setup had parallel administrative and legal lines of authority, and action often was delayed until the two groups agreed.

“The Office of Price Administration is an essential part of the war program,” Brown said, “and in fulfilling its responsibilities in this time of national emergency, it is absolutely essential that OPA action be prompt and decisive. We cannot afford the refinements of procedure and the preciseness of action which might be warranted in a public regulatory agency in time of peace.”

Brown added that he has no intention of dismissing a lot of lawyers or of disregarding their advice.

He explained he merely wants the attorneys to limit themselves to their role of giving legal advice without interfering with the authority of responsible administrative executives to make whatever decisions they think proper in the light of the legal advice.

While OPA officials said that the lawyers could not be blamed for blocking or altering materially any program, the lawyers by the very nature of their profession, always wanted to take care of so many legal contingencies that delays and complexities resulted.

Brown acted on the advice of a special committee, headed by former Iowa Senator Clyde L. Herring, which is surveying the whole of OPA.

Brown, former Michigan Senator, is himself a lawyer. He has told friends several times since he became price

administrator that he believes he knows enough law that he would not have to depend on lawyers as much as his predecessor, Leon Henderson, who was an economist by profession.

Asked for confirmation of this report of OPA reorganization, the Washington office informed the Association that a preliminary memorandum has been drafted but will not be formally released until after Mr. Brown's return from his present western trip.

Order M-81 Amendments

Tin Conservation Order M-81 was amended on March 12, as reported in last week's INFORMATION LETTER. Following are changes affecting canners included in this latest issue of the order:

Asparagus may be packed “All Green or Culturally Bleached” in unlimited quantities.

Blackeye peas or beans, field peas, soy beans, may be packed as “Fresh Shelled Beans.”

These fish can sizes were added: Clams—307 x 200.5; Herring—(Atlantic Sea)—300.5 x 404 x 014.5.

QUARTERMASTER DEPOT INSTRUCTIONS ON STRAPPING

Tentative Specifications Cover Flat and Round Steel Straps for Fibre Box

The Office of the Quartermaster General has notified its branch depots that pending the availability of sufficient production of V1 and V2 type fibre containers with sleeves, canned subsistence supplies in weatherproof solid fibre containers, that comply with the specifications required for overseas shipment, shall be strapped in the following manner:

Each box shall have a total of four straps, two in each direction, located as follows:

(1) Two parallel straps over top, bottom and ends, dividing the width of the box approximately in thirds, but located over the point of contact of cans with the edges of the box.

(2) Two parallel straps over top, bottom and sides, dividing the length of the box approximately in thirds, but located over the point of contact of cans with the edges of the box.

USDA UNFREEZES CITRUS JUICE PRODUCTION, SALES

Amendment Also Permits Processing
of Single-strength as well as
Concentrated Juice

Modifications in Food Distribution Order No. 3, regulating the production and sale of citrus juices, were provided in Amendment No. 3 to the order issued on March 18 by Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard.

The amendment, effective March 23, provides for the following changes from the original order:

(1) Distributors may sell the supplies of grapefruit juice which have been frozen in their hands since January 28, since this product is now being rationed.

(2) Processors who have no concentrating facilities may produce single-strength (unconcentrated) citrus juice, and processors with concentrating facilities may be authorized by the Director of Food Distribution to produce single-strength juice if their concentrating facilities are being used at maximum capacity.

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When the box has been previously strapped with an insufficient number of straps, it is not required that such straps be removed. Additional straps shall be added in accordance with the following plan:

(1) Where one strap is in place centered on the box, add the second one parallel to it and one-half the distance to either edge of the box.

(2) Where one strap is in place, located off center, place the second one parallel to it and half way to the furthest edge.

Canned subsistence supplies packed in V1s, V2s, V1rs (sisal) or V1rc (sisal) with sleeves complying with Quartermaster Corps Tentative Specification OQMG No. 93, dated December 2, 1942, Subject: Boxes, Fibreboard, Corrugated and Solid, are authorized for overseas shipment provided such containers are metal strapped with two straps applied at right angles over top, bottom and sides and over top, bottom and ends, both centered.

On fibre containers, flat steel strapping is preferred but round steel wire

strapping as an alternate is acceptable.

Flat Steel Strapping. When flat steel strapping is employed, it shall be not less than $\frac{3}{8}$ x .015 inches and have a minimum ultimate tensile strength of 80,000 pounds per square inch.

Round Steel Wire Strapping. When round steel wire strapping is used, it shall be not less than 15-gauge (.072 inches diameter) if 100,000 pounds per square inch ultimate tensile strength or 16-gauge (.0625 inches diameter) if 140,000 pounds per square inch ultimate tensile strength.

All straps shall be protected by a rust resistant coating. Seals shall provide a joint strength of not less than 75 per cent of the strap breaking strength.

Every effort should be made by all personnel to assure the proper application of these steel strappings. Strapping applied in an incorrect manner gives little or no protection to the container.

The preceding instructions are concerned only with the proper strapping of fibre containers when prepared for overseas shipment. These instructions do not relate to the strapping of wood containers of subsistence supplies; such containers will continue to be strapped as previously directed.

Deferment of Farm Workers

The Senate, on March 17, by a vote of 50 to 24, passed the so-called Bankhead-Johnson amendment to the Selective Training and Service Act under which local draft boards would be directed to defer from military service all farm workers engaged substantially full time in the production of essential war crops. On the same day the House voted to appropriate \$26,100,000 for recruiting, training and placing workers needed for the production and harvesting of agricultural commodities.

The language of the appropriation measure would place the farm labor recruitment program under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture and the United States Employment Service. Originally, the Department had requested \$65,075,000 for a farm labor program to be administered by the Farm Security Administration. The measure now is subject to Senate action.

The bill makes it mandatory on the part of local draft boards to defer farm workers who are engaged substantially full time in the production of the essential war crops named in Selective Service System's Local Board Release No. 164. The essential farm products enumerated in this release were approved by USDA and by farm organizations. Among them are tree fruits, small fruits and berries, and many of the truck and canning crops.

War Department Restates Its Position on Farm Labor Shortage

Soldiers to Help with Vital Crops, Serving as Military Unit Under Own Officers

In view of widespread concern over farm labor shortages and numerous requests for a clarification of the War Department position, the Department restated on March 17 its policies and procedures by which soldiers may be utilized to alleviate this problem.

The War Department announced that it does not contemplate the furlough of individual soldiers to work on farms. World War experience demonstrated that such temporary releases were ineffective as a means of assistance to the agriculture industry and disrupted the organization and training of the Army, it was stated. Were furloughs granted for this purpose, neither agriculture nor the Army could be assured that soldiers thus furloughed actually would be engaged in agricultural activities. Such furloughs, spread over the entire Army, disrupt the training of many military organizations, the statement continued.

"The War Department is fully aware that certain emergency situations may develop in which vital crops may become endangered because of critical shortages in local agricultural labor. In such cases military units may be employed under command of their own officers to supplement the local agricultural labor until the crisis is relieved. Troops thus employed will be housed and fed by the Army and continue subject to military control at all times. Requests for use of military units for agricultural purposes will be transmitted to the War Department by the Chairman of the War Manpower Com-

The War Department also announced procedures by which soldiers, as individuals, may obtain discharges from the Army to return to their farms. Soldiers on active duty in the continental United States, who are 38 years of age and over, may be discharged upon favorable consideration of written applications submitted prior to May 1, 1943. The War Department emphasized that these requests for discharge to return to farms must be accompanied by a letter or statement from local farm agents to the effect that the soldiers will be employed in essential agricultural activities if discharged from the Army. Such requests are made by the soldier to his immediate commanding officer. A soldier meeting these requirements will be discharged promptly unless his release will seriously affect the efficiency of his unit.

A soldier 38 years of age and over, on active duty overseas, also may be discharged from the Army under these

instructions, provided his application is submitted prior to June 1. The War Department stated that enlisted men overseas will not be released until replacements are available. However, men overseas are not required to submit evidence of future employment. While the application for discharge must be submitted prior to June 1, the discharge may be effected after that date depending upon available transportation and the immediate combat situation.

It was also announced by the War Department that the discharge of any appreciable number of soldiers under 38 years of age is not contemplated. However, a procedure is available whereby individual soldiers in this age group may be discharged in cases of extreme emergency. The soldier himself initiates this procedure by submitting written application to his immediate commanding officer who will advise him as to the necessary evidence to support his request. The application proceeds through military channels to Washington, thence to the Selective Service System which obtains for War Department consideration the viewpoint of the local Selective Service board which initially selected the soldier for military service. Each case is decided on its own merits and the decision to discharge is based upon the conclusion that the services of the individual are more important to agriculture than to the Army. Since these findings are based largely upon the decisions of prominent citizens in the soldier's home community, the War Department is enabled to give proper weight to the need for his return to his farm as substantiated by neighbors familiar with local conditions.

In summation, the ruling consideration in the use of soldiers in agricultural employment is evidence that the agricultural emergency is of greater danger to the nation than the immediate military situation. In cases where troop units are needed to supplement local agricultural labor, the determination of the emergency is made by the War Manpower Commission. In cases where an individual soldier 38 years of age and over is needed on his farm, a statement as to the necessity for his return to his farm must be obtained from the local farm agent. When a soldier under 38 desires to return to his farm, the necessity for his return is investigated by his local draft board, which reports its findings to the War Department through the National Director of the Selective Service System, War Manpower Commission, but such soldiers will be discharged only in cases of gravest emergency.

Selective Service Appeals

Appeals of workers from their Selective Service occupational classifications henceforth will go before appeal boards in the worker's area of employment, according to a March 16 announcement by the War Manpower Commission.

Heretofore all appeals involving claims for occupational deferment were handled by the Selective Service board of appeal in the area in which the worker was registered, although the individual registrant concerned had removed for employment to another State. The new procedure permits appeals to be transferred to the State in which the registrant is working even though it is far distant from his local board area.

Such transfers of appeals jurisdiction, according to Selective Service headquarters, are to be permitted in the belief that appeals boards where men are employed may have better knowledge of working conditions, labor supply, and the necessity for registrants in their jobs than home boards distantly located.

Mexican Labor Recruitment

Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard announced March 16 that the Department was prepared to resume recruiting of agricultural workers in Mexico for work in the United States. Recruitment was temporarily suspended early last month by the Mexican Government. The Secretary's announcement followed a statement by Secretary of State Cordell Hull that information had been received from Mexico City that the selecting of agricultural workers under the agreement of August 4, 1942, was to be resumed immediately.

Bill Proposes Release of School Pupils for Work in Canneries

A bill has been introduced into the State Assembly of New York to amend the education law to provide that—

"Until July 1, 1944, under the rules and regulations prescribed by the board of regents, which shall include requirements that pupils shall be in suitable physical condition and that local school authorities shall be responsible for safeguarding their educational interests, the commissioner of education is hereby authorized to release from school pupils 14 years of age or over for planting and harvesting work and work in canning establishments and greenhouses for a period not to exceed 30 days in any school year upon the certificate of the county agricultural war committee that sufficient adult labor is not otherwise available.

CANNED MEAT INVENTORIES UNFROZEN BY OPA ORDER

Limited Transfers from Processor to Wholesaler Permitted

Producers of canned meats who have been pressed for storage space to hold stocks accumulating during the current "freeze" on sales will benefit from an action announced March 19, by the Office of Price Administration, permitting any person to make limited transfers to wholesalers.

Transfers which may be made under this action are limited in quantity to 50 per cent, by weight, of the total of any person's canned meat inventory at the close of business on February 17, and 50 per cent, by weight, of stocks produced or acquired by him since that date.

The action also adds persons or agencies buying canned meats or canned fish for export to United States territories and possessions to the list of purchasers not affected by the freeze order.

It further enlarges the list by giving "exempt purchaser" status to buyers of canned meat and fish for use as ship's stores on ocean-going vessels carrying cargo or passengers in foreign, coastwise, or intercoastal trade.

Another change provides that wholesalers who, operating also as processors, filed a report for January, 1943, of stocks on hand, need not make the inventory report called for in the freeze order.

When sales of meat and fish in cans were frozen on February 18, through

the issuance of Restriction Order 3 (reported in the INFORMATION LETTER for February 20), it was provided that canned fish packers, whose storage facilities generally are limited, could continue to move stocks to wholesalers.

"At that time," OPA states, "it appeared that the canned meat requirements of the armed forces and Lend-lease might be so great as to require that large amounts be purchased directly from processors within a short period of time. For that reason, a provision allowing canned meat transfers to wholesalers was not included in the original restriction order.

"It now appears, however, that some processors may not have sufficient storage space if current production schedules are maintained. Therefore, limited transfers from processors to wholesalers are now to be permitted, so that storage space in wholesale warehouses may be used to relieve the pressure on processors."

In explanation of the additions to the list of exempt purchasers, OPA pointed out that the transportation of food supplies to American territories and possessions, particularly non-perishable foods such as canned meat and canned fish, is of vital importance, and therefore should not be prohibited by the freeze order.

The new provisions are contained in Amendment 2 to Restriction Order 3 and are effective March 24.

DRY EDIBLE BEAN PRICES

Adjustments Are Made by OPA to Allow for Parity Rises

Prices of dry edible beans, below the wholesale and retail levels, were adjusted March 18 by the Office of Price Administration to allow for increases in parity. At the same time OPA moved to establish a 50-cent differential for red kidney beans over pea beans (Navy).

The action, taken through Amendment No. 3 to Maximum Price Regulation No. 270 will affect prices at retail as the wholesale and retail prices have been established under fixed margin regulations. The increase to consumers will be considerably less than one cent a pound on most varieties of beans and almost one cent a pound on red kidney beans. The wholesale price will be somewhat less than the retail level.

The amendment, which becomes effective March 25, sets these prices for red kidney beans: U. S. Choice hand picked, \$6.30 a hundredweight; U. S. No. 1, \$6.20; U. S. No. 2, \$6.05; U. S.

Dehydrated Foods Reserved

The Secretary of Agriculture issued March 19, effective March 21, Food Distribution Order No. 30, which reserves all future production and all stocks on hand of dehydrated Irish and sweet potatoes, cabbage, carrots, beets, onions and rutabagas.

Olive Association Officers

Following are the officers of the California Olive Association, who will serve through August, 1943: President, O. D. Gifford, C. M. Gifford & Sons, San Diego, Calif.; vice-president, Henry S. Titus, Albers Packing Co., Riverside, Calif.; secretary-treasurer, Miss Erlene Hevel, San Francisco.

No. 3 and lower, \$5.80. These represent increases of 60 cents a hundredweight.

Red kidney beans make up a small percentage of the dry edible beans supply and are often considered a luxury item by the trade. OPA had not, on the basis of the price data available to it when beans were put under specific dollars-and-cents maximums, allowed the differential now deemed necessary.

To allow for increases in the United States parity price for all dry beans since the establishment of permanent ceiling prices, and to a degree for historical relationships, the prices for other classes of dry beans are increased by this amendment from five cents a hundredweight to 40 cents a hundredweight.

OPA Amendment Offers Plan for Seasonal Worker Rations

An employer who temporarily hires workmen for work periods of less than 30 days may obtain rationed foods needed to feed them by applying to his local War Price and Ration Board, the Office of Price Administration has announced.

The provision is contained in Amendment 5 to General Ration Order 5 and became effective March 12.

In applying for an allotment, the employer of temporary help reports, among other things, the number of employees he will hire, how long the period of employment will continue, and the number of persons he expects to serve during the next 30 days. The board computes his allotment by multiplying the food ration allowance per person by the number of persons to be served.

During the period of temporary employment, if the employee lives in the establishment provided for him by the employer for seven consecutive days and eats eight or more meals a week there, he is required to turn his ration books over to the employer who removes from War Ration Book One the coffee and sugar stamps that expire during the period and from War Ration Book Two the processed food stamps, on the approximate basis of 11 points for each week.

Within five days after the employment period terminates, the employer is required to account for the rationed foods received, surrender the stamps he has removed from employees' books to the local board, and to return the ration books to the employees who surrendered them. OPA Form R-315 is used in filing applications for such rationed food allotments.

POINT VALUES CHANGED

Rationing of Dried Fruits; Dry Beans, Peas and Lentils Affected

The point values of dried and dehydrated prunes and raisins, and of all edible dry beans, peas and lentils were reduced by the Office of Price Administration, under terms of Amendment No. 1 to Supplement 1 of Ration Order 13. At the same time, dates and figs (not hermetically sealed) were removed from the list of foods currently being rationed, and an adjustment was made in the method of calculating the point values of all other dried fruits. The changes became effective March 13.

The point value of dried and dehydrated prunes and raisins was lowered from 20 points per pound to 12 points. The point values of all other dried fruits continue at their present value of eight points per pound, but the basis for computing the point values of fractions of a pound was adjusted to place all other dried fruits on the same basis as dried prunes and raisins. This adjustment will eliminate an inequality in the original point value table in which, for example, the point value for a pound of raisins or prunes was 20 points, whereas the pound value in fractional amounts totaled only 12 points, according to the OPA press statement.

The point value of edible dry beans, peas and lentils was reduced from eight points per pound to four points per pound. The reduction follows, by a few days, OPA's action in exempting such vegetables, when bought exclusively for use as seed, from the point rationing program. When used as food, they, of course, continue under rationing, as reported in last week's LETTER.

Jar Caps for Home Canning

Plenty of metal closures for the glass containers that will handle the housewife's expanding home-canning program were assured by the War Production Board, and plenty of rubber jar rings are in prospect, according to a March 15 press statement.

In an amendment to Conservation Order M-104, WPB removed all quota restrictions on the manufacture of certain types of metal lids used to seal the jars. Prohibition of the use of zinc was continued.

Indiana Spring Meeting Set

The Indiana Canners Association will hold its Spring meeting on April 16, at the Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis.

Wage Committee Appointments

Appointments to fill resignations from the Industry Committee for the Canned Fruits and Vegetables and Related Products Industry were made by Administrator L. Metcalfe Walling of the Wage and Hour Division, on March 15, as follows:

Henry P. Taylor, Walkerton, Va., Chester R. Loyd, Ozark, Ark., and W. S. Macklem, Rochester, N. Y. These appointees take places on the committee as representatives for employers of: Edward Huddleston, George Sanders, and John Seeman, resigned.

Frozen Foods Industry Seeks Continuation of 1942 Policy

Problems affecting the frozen foods industry were discussed at a recent meeting of the Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Packers Industry Advisory Committee of the Food Distribution Administration, the Department of Agriculture announced March 17.

The Industry Committee presented a "statement of position" which emphasized the importance of frozen foods, listed some of the major problems facing the industry, and indicated that the government procedures followed in 1942 were effective in obtaining production and requested that similar procedures be established in 1943.

The committee recommended that frozen foods be given the same type of program as that announced for canned fruits and vegetables and suggested that the increased cost in raw materials and labor be reflected in pricing procedures.

Plans for obtaining sufficient acreage to keep quick-freezing plants operating at capacity were discussed. Through the Department's frozen vegetable expansion program, 37 projects have been approved to provide an estimated increase in production of about 100,000,000 pounds. It is necessary that the industry be able to contract for sufficient raw materials to keep these plants operating at full speed, the committee emphasized.

Ration Banking Bulletin

Copies of "OPA Retailer-Wholesaler Bulletin No. 16," which describes ration banking methods for the food trade, have been distributed by the Association to all members. Additional copies of the bulletin are available at all local offices of OPA.

WANTED AND FOR SALE **Machinery-Equipment**

This column is open only to members of the Association who want to buy or sell canning machinery and equipment. Names of firms listing the items below will be furnished upon application to the Association. In requesting names, please identify items by number.

WANTED

- 80-W—Used tomato juice filler, 46-oz. and No. 10's.
- 81-W—Rotary tomato washer.
- 82-W—Two-inch rotary pump.
- 83-W—No. 10 can labeler.
- 84-W—Urschel bean or asparagus cutter.

FOR SALE

- 123-S—Sterling Model 1D slicer to cut 3/4-inch slices, pulley drive.
- 124-S—8-valve Anderson Barngrover filling machine.
- 125-S—Exhaust box, 18 feet long, 3 round chain.
- 126-S—5-pocket Ayars pea and bean filler, 1942 model.
- 127-S—Two FMC double corn huskers.
- 128-S—Link Belt rollers for tomato picking table—1,100, size 3 x 36 inches; 500, size 2 1/4 x 36 inches. These have been used two years.
- 129-S—Ermold hand labeler.
- 130-S—Two onion grinders (one is Openheimer model).
- 131-S—Standard automatic filler for catsup.
- 132-S—Sprague-Sells cone finisher for catsup.
- 133-S—Copper coils; three 2-inch (chill sauce); one 3-inch (water); ten 2-inch (catsup).
- 134-S—Ayars Model C corn shaker for No. 2 cans.
- 135-S—Apple canning equipment, as follows: 18 Coons paring units complete; 2 metal paring frames with tables and belts for 24 units; roller conveyor washer, 16 inches wide by 11 feet long; shafting, hangers and pulleys to accommodate apple paring equipment; four apple scoops.
- 136-S—Zastrow crane and hoist.
- 137-S—Scales, as follows: Platform (small); two test (for pulp); scoop (for spices).
- 138-S—Six-wheel Nutting truck.
- 139-S—Four steam traps.

- 140-S—Knapp labeler and motor.
- 141-S—Four pipe wrenches, rope, pulley blocks and chain.
- 142-S—Barrel skid.
- 143-S—Tomato canning equipment, as follows: Two rotary washers; inclined scalding; straight washer and scalding; Indiana pulper; Ayars double rotary filler for No. 2 cans.
- 144-S—Four Kook-More copper coils and eight steam traps.
- 145-S—Two steam Duplex pumps.
- 146-S—Small air compressor and tank.
- 147-S—24-inch by 12-foot picking table belt.
- 148-S—3-foot wall vent fan, belt drive.
- 149-S—Electric generator.
- 150-S—12 h.p. steam engine.
- 151-S—Robins steam crane.
- 152-S—26 feet of 2-3/16-inch shaft.
- 153-S—Cooling tank, 12 x 6 x 6.
- 154-S—Double exhaust box, No. 2 cans.
- 155-S—Five open process kettles and eight can crates.
- 156-S—40-h.p. vertical boiler.
- 157-S—20-inch by 36-foot boiler stack.

WARTIME FOOD PROBLEMS

Grade Labeling Requirement Opposed By Industry War Committee

A series of specific suggestions for solution of the nation's food problems was made by the Food Industry War Committee, which consists of representatives of farming, processing, manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing, at meetings in Washington on March 16 and 17. The committee listed the following as examples of action deemed necessary to break bottlenecks in the food supply situation:

1. Immediate recognition of the food industry as vitally essential to the war effort, with a clear understanding that processors, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers and their employees are all vital links in the food supply chain.
2. Immediate appointment of a qualified official to represent the civilian population in the allocation of food supplies.
3. As a measure for saving food, the committee urged that point values of processed foods be adjusted at the beginning of each ration period, to conform with consumer buying of available supplies.
4. The committee also opposed imposition of grade labeling during the present emergency. Such a move would present an additional obstacle to all-out food production. The present war crisis, spokesmen asserted, is no time to impose social reforms or to attempt to force grade labeling under the guise of theoretical simplification of prices.

RAISE TO 40¢ PERMITTED

Approval of WLB No Longer Required Under New Wage Order

Under War Labor Board General Order No. 30, which was issued on March 16, canners need not obtain the approval of the Board before raising the wages of their employees to 40¢ per hour, provided they do not intend to make the increase the basis for a price adjustment.

The Board's jurisdiction, under Executive Order 9250, extends to all wages, and to all salaries up to \$5,000, except when paid to executive, administrative, or professional employees who are not represented by a duly recognized labor union. The executive order, however, authorizes the Board to grant exemptions from the wage stabilization regulations "in the case of small total wage increases or decreases, as it deems necessary for the effective administration" of the order. Accordingly, on the condition that the increase to 40¢ "shall not furnish a basis either to increase price ceilings of the commodity or service involved, or to resist otherwise justified reductions in such price ceilings," the Board granted a general exemption for all increases in wage or salary rates which do not bring those rates above 40¢ per hour.

Canners who intend to make any general wage or salary adjustment the basis for seeking price relief, should not proceed under General Order 30, but should follow the ordinary procedure established for obtaining administrative approval. In addition, the order does not apply to any employees who are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. His jurisdiction includes those executive, administrative, or professional employees earning salaries under \$5,000, who are not represented by a duly recognized labor organization.

Citrus Juice Standards Issued

The Food Distribution Administration of the Department of Agriculture has issued tentative standards for grades of canned concentrated orange juice and canned blended grapefruit juice and orange juice, effective March 15, 1943. Copies of these standards may be obtained upon application to the Department of Agriculture.

Iowa-Nebraska Officers

The list of 1943 officers of the Iowa-Nebraska Canners Association is as follows: President, Henry W. Chavis, Ames, Iowa; vice-president, Clark Hagan, Atlantic, Iowa; secretary-treasurer, Roy Chard, Audubon, Iowa.

PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM

USDA and OPA Join in Statement of Methods for Obtaining 1943 Production

The following statement was issued March 13 by the Department of Agriculture, and was immediately distributed by the Association to all canners in a special bulletin:

Details of a price support program designed to facilitate increased production and processing of canning vegetables in 1943 were announced today by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Office of Price Administration. The program assures farmers 20 to 50 per cent higher prices for their crops than last year, and protects canners against loss on account of the increased cost of the raw products.

Announcement of the program follows a week of meetings with representatives of the industry, during which all phases of producer and processor problems were studied against the imperative need for increased production of cannery vegetables this year. It supersedes announcement on January 28 that prices would be supported through purchase and resale of the processed products.

Canners participating in the program will pay growers not less than the 1943 support prices announced by USDA. Crops for which support prices are established include tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans, green peas, lima beans, beets, carrots, and cabbage for kraut. Commodity Credit Corporation will buy the raw materials from canners at the support prices and will resell the raw materials to the canners at the 1942 prices. In cases where the ceiling prices for the 1943 pack are adjusted to reflect the increased cost of the raw material to the canner, CCC resale prices will be adjusted accordingly. This will enable canners to process the pack at fair margins between cost and ceiling prices.

OPA Prices by Regions

OPA will set flat dollars and cents prices for these canned vegetables. These prices will be by regions and will be determined by grades, can sizes, types and styles. The prices have been built up from last year's average raw material cost by regions, plus other canning costs adjusted for known increases over 1942, and include a profit margin based on canners' returns during 1941. Calculated on this basis, the new ceiling prices will remain at approximately the same average level as prevailed in 1942 under the individual ceiling prices which were in effect during that year, although some will be higher and some lower. On these products, amounting to over 90 per cent of the canned vegetable pack, civilian consumers will pay on the average about same prices as they paid in 1942.

For the purpose of resale to the canner, the price for the raw material will be based on the average 1942 season price paid by canners in the regions set up by OPA in establishing price ceilings for 1943. The resale prices would be applicable only to that portion of the crops used for processing for the civilian trade. For the quantities processed under government reservation orders for military and other government needs, OPA will provide separate ceiling prices reflecting the increased cost of the vegetables used in canning, as well as the other known increased costs.

In effect, canners will, through the action of CCC, be guaranteed reimbursement for the increased prices paid farmers for agricultural commodities used in canning. In "hardship cases", individual canners will be reimbursed on the portion of their pack for the civilian trade for increases in costs other than those included in the ceiling price, upon a showing that the canner cannot absorb the increased costs and maintain a fair and equitable margin.

Program for Other Vegetables

In addition to the program covering the major portion of the canned vegetables, OPA outlined the general program for asparagus and the remaining minor vegetables for 1943. Asparagus will be priced on a flat dollars and cents basis by regions, including an allowance for increased raw material costs. Dollars and cents ceiling prices will be set for spinach and decisions regarding other aspects of the program as to spinach will be made after conferences in Washington next week. Prices for the remaining miscellaneous vegetables will be established by allowing canners to increase their individual maximum prices as established for the 1942 pack of each vegetable by an amount to reflect the increased cost of raw material, not to exceed 10 per cent of the price paid for the raw commodity in 1942. Canned vegetables, permitted such increases, will represent less than 10 per cent of civilian consumption in 1943.

State and local USDA war boards will cooperate with producers and processors in every way possible in contracting for the acreage needed this year. Lists of canners who contract with growers and make purchases at the announced support prices to growers, thus becoming eligible to participate in the program, will be prepared and certified by the State war boards.

This program will be administered by the Food Distribution Administration, except as to that work indicated above for the USDA war boards.

The accompanying tables give the 1943 support prices to growers, by States. Resale prices by regions will be available within a few days.

The Department's 1943 purchase and support prices per ton for canning vegetables are as follows:

SNAP BEANS:	Dollars
Wash. and Ore.....	110
N. Y.....	100
Me., N. H., N. J., Vt., Pa., Del., Md., Va., W. Va., and Ark.....	90
Calif. (for pole beans only).....	110
Calif. (except pole beans), and other States.....	80
LIMA BEANS:	
N. J.....	115
Calif., Ore., Wash., and Southwestern Ida.....	105
Utah, Wyo., and remaining Ida.....	95
All other States.....	90
BEEFS:	
N. Y., N. J., Ore., Wash., and Calif.....	21
All other States.....	19
CARROTS:	
N. Y., N. J., Calif., Ore., and Wash.....	22
All other States.....	20
CABBAGE FOR SAUERKRAUT:	
All States.....	12
SWEET CORN:	
Me., N. H.....	28
Wash., Ore., and Southwestern Ida.....	23
Vt., N. Y., Pa., Del., Md., and Va.....	19
All other States.....	17
GREEN PEAS:	
An increase of \$17.50 per ton over the average 1942 reported price in all States by grades and sizes.	
TOMATOES:	
N. J., Del., Md., Va., W. Va., Southern Pa., ¹ Lower Hudson River Valley and Long Island in N. Y. State, and Conn.....	27
Remainder of N. Y. and Pa.....	24
Wash., Ore., and Northern Ida.....	25
Northern and Central Calif. (for round canning tomatoes).....	25
Southern Calif.....	27
Calif. (entire State, for Italian varieties or pear shaped tomatoes).....	27
Other States, including the Midwestern, Southern, and Mountain State areas.....	22
For Italian varieties or pear shaped tomatoes in all States, except California, the price will be \$2. per ton over the maximum prices for round tomatoes for that State.	

¹ Southern Pa. includes the following counties: Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, Lancaster, York, Cumberland, Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford, Somerset.

These prices are the minimum prices established by the Department, delivered at plants or major assembly points. Roadside delivery will be considered as major assembly point in California for tomatoes. Corn prices are on an unhusked basis. Ensilage should be handled in a manner to maintain customary rights and methods of handling insofar as this appears equitable. The State War Boards may establish prices within their States, by varieties and grades, on the basis of usual price differentials from the average price so as to maintain a minimum grower support price at the above figures.

It should be noted that the prices listed above are the average prices to be paid to growers by canners under the USDA support program. The actual prices canners will pay under this support program for the various varie-

ties, grades, etc., of each vegetable will be determined by the agricultural War Boards in the various States. It is presumed that the scale of prices for varieties, grades, etc., will be so constructed as to give a minimum average for each product, comparable to that listed in the table above. Information is not available at this time regarding the action of the State War Boards with respect to these prices. It is understood, however, that the various State and regional associations will announce to the canners in their respective States the action taken by the War Board.

USDA UNFREEZES CITRUS JUICE PRODUCTION, SALES

(Continued from page 7555)

(3) The Director of Food Distribution is authorized to permit production of concentrated citrus juices and their sale to other than government agencies or pursuant to government war contracts.

(4) The Director of Food Distribution is authorized to limit the production of single-strength juice in any or all areas of production as he considers advisable in the interests of the war program.

(5) Processors are permitted to sell concentrated juices for use on ocean-going vessels and in the manufacture of medicinal products.

Food Distribution Order No. 3 was issued to assure an adequate supply of citrus juices for direct war requirements. Providing for the maximum utilization of existing facilities for producing concentrated juices, the original order limited the production of all citrus juices, except grapefruit juice, to war requirements. It also froze distributor's stocks of grapefruit juice until April 1 to hold back supplies of the canned product while fresh fruit was abundant.

Principal effect of the amendment will be to permit the production of single-strength citrus juice to the extent that it does not reduce the production of the concentrated juice which is particularly needed to meet war requirements. The packing of such juices in tin, however, is still limited by the provision of War Production Order M-81.

Permitting the production and sale of unconcentrated citrus juice for other than war requirements will provide juice to the beverage industry which depends upon this product as an ingredient. The amendment also provides that quantities of concentrated juice may be released by the Director of Food Distribution if such release

does not conflict with government requirements. Text of Amendment 3 to FDO No. 3 follows.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Executive Order No. 9280, dated December 5, 1942, and in order to assure an adequate supply and efficient distribution of citrus fruit juice to meet war and essential civilian needs, *It is hereby ordered*, That Food Distribution Order No. 3 (8 F.R. 255) issued on January 5, 1943, by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, as amended (8 F.R. 828; 8 F.R. 1803), be, and the same hereby is, amended to read as follows:

§ 1405.1 Citrus fruit juice—(a)—Definitions.

When used in this order, unless otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly incompatible with the intent thereof:

(1) The term "single-strength juice" means the juice extracted from oranges, lemons, or grapefruit, or any combination of such juices with other citrus juice or other juices, sweetened or unsweetened, with or without the addition of preservatives or the use of any other treatment, the effect of which is to preserve or change the character of such juices, but does not include concentrated juice.

(2) The term "concentrated juice" means the juice extracted from oranges, lemons, or grapefruit, or any combination of such juices with other citrus juice or other juices, with or without the addition of preservatives or the use of any other treatment, the effect of which is to preserve or change the character of such juices, treated or processed in such manner as to reduce it to a powdered form or to increase the density thereof to more than 16 degrees Brix at 20 degrees Centigrade: *Provided*, That where the increase in density results solely from the addition of sugar or other ingredients, the resultant product shall be considered as single-strength juice and not as concentrated juice.

(3) The term "government war contracts" means sales contracts of any type entered into between a processor directly, or indirectly through third parties, and a governmental agency.

(4) The term "person" shall mean any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business entity.

(5) The term "quota period" means a period of time established by the Director.

(6) The term "processor" means any person in the business of extracting juice from oranges, lemons, or grapefruit for processing as single-strength or concentrated juice.

(7) The term "producing area" means the States of California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida.

(8) The term "Director" means the Director of Food Distribution, United States Department of Agriculture, or any employee of the United States Department of Agriculture designated by such Director.

(9) The term "governmental agency" or "governmental agencies" means and includes the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, the War Shipping Administration, the United States Maritime Commission, the American National Red Cross, or any agency of the United States purchasing supplies for any of the foregoing, or for delivery to or for the account of the government of any country pursuant to the act of March 11, 1941, entitled "An Act to Promote the Defense of the United States" (Lend-lease Act); *Provided*, That U. S. Army or U. S. Marine Corps Post Exchanges, U. S. Navy Ship's Service Departments, and restaurant and cafeterias located on military or naval reservations are not included in the term "governmental agency" or "governmental agencies".

(10) The term "deliver" or "delivery" means delivery pursuant to a contract of sale.

(b) Restrictions on production, sale, and delivery of citrus fruit juice.

(1) On and after March 23, 1943, without regard to existing contracts or the rights of creditors, no processor shall produce, except as authorized by the Director, any concentrated juice other than concentrated juice meeting the specifications prescribed either by the procurement division of any governmental agency or by a government war contract with such processor.

(2) Without regard to existing contracts or the rights of creditors, no processor shall sell or deliver, and no State or any subdivision thereof, no department or agency of the United States, and no person shall buy or receive any concentrated juice produced after January 9, 1943, except pursuant to a government war contract or as authorized by the Director.

(3) No processor who has facilities for producing or who is engaged in the business of producing concentrated juice shall produce any single-strength juice except for conversion into concentrated juice: *Provided*, That the Director may, from time to time, authorize a processor, who has concentrating facilities, to produce single-strength juice for sale as such.

(4) The Director may establish production quotas of concentrated juice for each processor, and if such quotas are produced prior to the end of the quota period the Director may, notwithstanding the provisions of (b) (3) hereof, authorize the production of single-strength juice and concentrated juice, or either, during the remainder of the quota period, for sale to other than governmental agencies.

(5) A processor may sell and deliver concentrated juice for use in the manufacturing of such medicinal products as may be approved by the Director under the provisions of this order: *Provided*, That the processor obtains and forwards, prior to each such sale or delivery, to the Director a statement from

the purchaser to the effect that the concentrated juice is to be used exclusively in the manufacturing of such products.

(6) A processor may sell and deliver concentrated juice to any person who customarily supplies ocean-going vessels, if the purchaser uses such concentrated juice only for resale for use as necessary supplies on ocean-going vessels engaged in the foreign, coastwise, or intercoastal trade: *Provided*, That the processor obtains and forwards, prior to each such sale or delivery, to the Director a statement from the purchaser to the effect that the concentrated juice is to be resold exclusively for use on ocean-going vessels engaged in the foreign, coastwise, or intercoastal trade.

(7) The Director may, notwithstanding any other provision of this order, limit for any period or periods of time the production of single-strength juice for sale as such by each processor in the producing area, or such portions thereof as the Director may designate, to the quantity of single-strength juice which the Director deems to be advisable.

(8) Any decision, determination, or other action by the Director pursuant to the provisions of this order may be by general supplementary order or by written notices by the Director to the individual processor or person directly concerned.

(c) Records and reports.

Every person subject to this order shall maintain such records for at least two years (or for such other periods of time as the Director may designate), and shall execute and file such reports upon such forms and submit such information as the Director may from time to time request or direct, and within such times as he may prescribe (specific recording or reporting requirements by the Director will be subject to the approval of the Bureau of the Budget pursuant to the Federal Reports Act of 1942).

(d) Audits and inspections.

Every person subject to this order shall, upon request, permit inspections by the Director, at all reasonable times, of his stocks of single-strength juice and concentrated juice, respectively, and the premises used in his business, and all of his books, records, and accounts shall, upon request, be submitted to audit and inspection by the Director.

(e) Applicability of order.

Any person doing business in one or more of the 48 States or the District of Columbia is subject to the provisions hereof, but the provisions hereof shall not apply to any person doing business in any Territory or Possession of the United States with respect to such business.

(f) Violations.

Any person who wilfully violates any provision of this order or who by any act or omission falsifies records to be

kept or information to be furnished pursuant to this order or wilfully conceals a material fact concerning a matter within the jurisdiction of any Department or agency of the United States may be prohibited from receiving or making further deliveries of any material subject to allocation; and such further action may be taken against him as the Director deems appropriate, including recommendations for prosecution under Section 35a of the Criminal Code (18 U.S.C. 1940 ed. 80), under Paragraph 5 of Section 301 of Title III of the Second War Powers Act, and under any and all other applicable laws.

(g) Petition for relief from hardship.

Any person affected by this order who considers that compliance herewith would work an exceptional and unreasonable hardship on him may petition in writing (in triplicate) for relief to the Director, setting forth all pertinent facts and the nature of the relief sought. The Director may thereupon take such action as he deems appropriate, and such action shall be final.

(h) Communications to the Department of Agriculture.

All reports required to be filed hereunder and all communications concerning this order shall, unless otherwise directed, be addressed to: Director of Food Distribution, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Ref. FD 3.

(i) Delegation of authority.

The Director is hereby designated to administer the provisions hereof.

(j) Effective date.

This order shall take effect March 23, 1943. With respect to any violation of said Food Distribution Order No. 3, as heretofore amended, prior to the effective time of the provisions of this amendment, said Food Distribution Order No. 3, as heretofore amended, shall be deemed to be in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any proper suit, action, or other proceeding with respect to any such violation or liability.

Additions To Fertilizer Order

Additional nitrogenous fertilizer materials, including ammonium nitrate, ammonium phosphate, castor pomace, fish meal, fish scrap, nitrate of soda-potash, and urea compound, are brought under the same kind of margin control as that provided last March in the original maximum price regulation by the issuance of Revised MPR 108. This order, effective March 15, allows manufacturers and dealers to establish maximum prices to consumers by adding a specified dollars-and-cents margin above their cost of the materials. Application of the margin to the maximum price which may be charged rather than to the price which actually is paid by the

fertilizer manufacturer or dealer, results in a fixed minimum price to consumers instead of one which might fluctuate with each lot of material purchased.

As permitted in the old regulation, fertilizer manufacturers and dealers may pass along actual transportation costs incurred by them, including the recently imposed Federal transportation tax of 3 per cent thereon.

Manpower Committee Works On Problem of Wage Adjustments

As noted in last week's *INFORMATION LETTER*, Selective Service Occupational Bulletin No. 20 has been revised and now includes additional critical occupations in the canning industry, as well as a broader definition of "manager or superintendent."

The protection of a nucleus of key workers for canning plants was one of the problems to which the Association's Manpower Committee has devoted much time and the revision of the Selective Service bulletin represents considerable progress in this respect.

A second problem to which the committee also devoted considerable time and energy is that of adjustment of wages as frozen by the Executive Order of October 3, 1942. Such adjustment is a difficult problem because conditions vary from State to State and also among districts in the same State. Many proposals have been considered and discussed with government officials, and at present but one method of applying for relief is available, namely, by application to the War Board for an increased rate of pay. Such applications may be filed by individual companies or a single common petition may be filed by any group of canners whose conditions are so similar that each may file for the same relief. Several such individual or group petitions are now pending.

This process is slow. The War Labor Board is swamped with similar petitions. When acted upon favorably, the decision of the War Labor Board establishes a new rate which becomes effective at once and which rate may not be changed without favorable action upon a new petition. There has been the hope that action taken on some of the present pending petitions would set a pattern for speedier action on subsequent canners' petitions.

Proposals for an exemption for the processors of perishable fruits and vegetables from the wage freeze order similar in principle to the exemption granted for farm wages have also been presented.